



## Community Group Study: Prison Break

### Getting Started

Tell about the most beautiful, breathtaking, awe-inspiring thing you've ever seen.

Read Acts 12:1-19

### Discussion

From Acts 12:1-3; 21-22. Who was Herod?

Was putting Peter in prison something he did to honor God, or what was his motive?

In contrast to Herod, how did Peter and Paul respond when people called them gods?

Read Acts 10:25-26 and 14:11-15, 18.

In Isaiah 42:8 God says, "I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor my praise to graven images" (NASB).

Using the following passages, note what happens to those who exalt themselves or allow others to exalt them.

Genesis. 11:4, 9

Isaiah. 14:12-15

Daniel 4:28-37

What do James 4:10 and 1 Peter 5:6 teach us?

Contrast Acts 12:23 and 12:24. What happened to Herod when he accepted the people calling him a god and not a man? After God removed Herod, what happened with God's word?

From Acts 12:6, 7 & 10-11, how likely did it seem that Peter would survive his circumstances?

Was there any way he could have freed himself? How did God intervene?

Read Acts 12:5 & 15-16. What were the believers in Jesus, the church, doing while Peter was in prison? What was their reaction when they learned that Peter was outside the gate? Do you think God answered their prayers in a way they expected?

Read Eph 3:20. How is God's ability to act and to answer prayer described here? What is meant by "the power at work within us?" (Ephesians 3:16)

### **Application**

God will allow nothing/no one – no person, no circumstances - to thwart His redemptive plan, and will act in ways we cannot ask or imagine in order to bring it about.

Read Hebrews 11:11 and 10:23. Why was Abraham's wife Sarah able to conceive their son in her old age? In whom or in what are you putting your trust these days?

Think back to Ephesians 3:20, above. How are you doing in the area of prayer?

Are you praying as one who believes God "is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think," or is your praying, or lack of it, reflecting doubts and disbelief in God's power and a belief that you must act in your own power?

When Peter was imprisoned by the (humanly) powerful man, Herod, his situation seemed hopeless.

But the church prayed fervently and God made a way. Write down a list of things to pray about; you can add to it any time. Pray that God will be glorified in your circumstances.

Praise God for the ways He blesses you. Then watch for God to answer in ways you cannot ask or imagine.